

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 L-03 AGR-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

CIEP-01 FRB-03 OMB-01 /058 R

DRAFTED BY EB/ICD/FTD:WRBREW:CSH

APPROVED BY EB/ICD/FTD:CANGEVINE

COMMERCE:ELIPSCOMB

LABOR:ESWEENEY

NEA/PAB:NGJONES

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, PK

SUBJECT: TEXTILES - OVERSHIPMENT OF TOWELS

GENEVA FOR PHELAN

1. COMMERCE, LABOR AND DEPT OFFICERS MET NOVEMBER 12 WITH ECON MINISTER MUFTI AND ECON COUNSELOR HUMAYUN, OF PAKISTAN EMBASSY, TO REVIEW PAKISTANI OVERSHIPMENT OF CATEGORY 31 TOWELS, OTHER THAN SHOP TOWELS, AND RESULTANT DIRECTIVE TO CUSTOMS TO REFUSE TO ADMIT ADDITIONAL TOWELS THIS TYPE.

2. BY AUGUST 31 U.S. CUSTOMS FIGURES (ON EXPORT BASIS) INDICATE THAT U.S. HAD ADMITTED ABOUT 200,000 PIECES MORE THAN ENTIRE LIMIT FOR CAT. 31 TOWELS FOR 18 MO. PERIOD ENDING DEC. 31, 1975; MANY PIECES NOW BEING HELD UP BY
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CUSTOMS AND ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS UNDOUBTEDLY AT SEA. HUMAYUN

AND MUFTI ACKNOWLEDGED FIGURES, BUT COUNTERED THAT ISLAMABAD HAD INFORMED THEM THAT TOWELS HAD NOT BEEN OVER-SHIPPED. CATEGORY 31 HAD CEILING OF 6.4 MILLION SQUARE YARDS EQUIVALENT (SYE); OF THIS, 4.7 MILLION SYE HAD BEEN LICENSED, LEAVING UNSHIPPED BALANCE OF 1.7 MILLION SYE. HUMAYUN BELIEVED THAT "BAR MOPS", WHICH NOT INCLUDED IN THE LICENSED FIGURE, REPRESENTED DIFFERENCE BETWEEN U.S. AND PAKISTANI FIGURES. COMMERCE OFFICER NOTED THAT U.S. HAS ALWAYS CHARACTERIZED "BAR MOPS" AS TOWELS PROPERLY INCLUDE-
IBLE IN CAT. 31. FYI "BAR MOPS" ARE OBLONG TERRY TOWELS GENERALLY 15 TO 17 INCHES IN WIDTH. END FYI.

3. AFTER REVIEW OF TYPES AND DEFINITIONS OF PRODUCTS INCLUDED IN CAT. 31, DEPT OFF REQUESTED MUFTI TO REVIEW DETAILS WITH HIS GOVERNMENT TO DETERMINE IF GOP VIEW OF ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN CAT. 31 WAS SAME AS U.S. VIEW; IN ADDITION, DEPT OFF REQUESTED INFORMATION ON VOLUME OF TRADE IN TOWELS BEFORE AND AFTER BILATERAL AGREEMENT SIGNED. MUFTI AGREED TO REQUESTS.

4. MUFTI REPORTED THAT, IN EFFORT TO LIMIT PROBLEM TO PRESENT DIMENSIONS, HE HAD RECOMMENDED TO GOP THAT EXPORTS IN CAT. 31 BE SUSPENDED UNTIL EITHER (A) PROBLEM RESOLVED OR (B) BEGINNING NEW QUOTA YEAR (1976). HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT STEPS ACTUALLY TAKEN BUT HAD NO REASON TO BELIEVE HIS RECOMMENDATION WOULD NOT BE FOLLOWED.

5. MUFTI THEN ASKED IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ADMIT TOWELS WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN SHIPPED, PERHAPS BY BORROWING FROM FUTURE QUOTAS. DEPTOFF SAID WOULD BE CONSIDERED. FYI PAKISTAN CAT. 31 CEILING FOR YEAR ENDING 12/31/75 ALREADY EXCEEDED, EVEN IF ALL OF WEAR-TO-YEAR AND CATEGORY-TO-CATEGORY FLEXIBILITY AVAILABLE UNDER THE AGREEMENT WERE TO BE ADDED TO CAT. 31 CEILING. END FYI. INGERSOLL

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